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LIVING BY STARLIGHT
AN ASTROLOGICAL NEWSLETTER
BY MITCHELL SCOTT LEWIS
<http://www.mitachastro.com/>

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AUTHOR'S NOTES:

As the end of the year approaches we all look forward to endings and a new beginning. Each New Year offers promise and the hope that things will be better. This year, 2007, adds up to what numerologists call a 9 year – a time of endings. Next year will be a 1 year – the start. We will have a new president by the end of 2008, and a new direction in the country. All things are possible as the new cycle begins. My hope is that we all can let go of the things that have been holding back personal growth and advancement and begin this new cycle uninhibited and no longer tethered to the past. 2008 will see some very important astrological changes, and it is vital that we enter this next phase with a positive and supportive attitude.

In January, Pluto will leave Sagittarius, where it has been for about 12 years, and enter Capricorn. Because it takes about 250 years for Pluto to complete its journey through the zodiac, we have little societal data to compare with the last time it transited this sign. However, shortly after Pluto entered Capricorn the last time, the seeds of the American Revolution began to sprout. Tyranny came into focus as a concept, rather than accepted as a way of life, and the collective made a major move towards independence, a new concept in government. Uranus, ruler of democracy and the individual's freedom, had recently been discovered, which reflected a rise in our collective awareness. With Pluto about to reenter Capricorn and begin heading towards our **Pluto return**, we appear to be at a similar crossroads as the culture decides what type of world it wants.

The society has changed so much in a short time it's difficult for the individual or the collective to assimilate it all. **As Pluto begins its journey into Saturn-ruled Capricorn** there will be a period of inner reflection as we begin to recognize what has happened to our world during the past decade. What route we take will be shown by this next presidential election. I am not ready to make my predictions, except one: If we do not choose carefully and with a long-term perspective, this country will face some of its most difficult and dangerous moments in the next few years. If we do not vehemently restate our American ideals, stop the massive spread of elitism, and support the beleaguered middle-class, we will lose what is left of our innocence and passion.

But, no matter who wins, with a woman, a black man, a Mormon and a Baptist minister all serious candidates; this certainly isn't your father's America anymore.

On a personal note, I bid farewell to Bobby Van, a dear friend for many years and an amazing pianist, praise I rarely give, as those who know me will attest. Bobby was an incredible musician who could weave classical and jazz into a seamless mosaic of human emotions, that would make you think, laugh and wonder how he did it. His fingers had a great sense of humor. He was kind and generous with his talents. Often we would take turns canoodling on the keys in his home or at one bar or another. We shared a love of the instrument that was so deep it is difficult to explain. For several years he left one of his Steinway baby grands at the Post House in

Southampton for me to use, so, he said, it would be treated with love. During the golden age of piano bars he was as much a part of the Hamptons as the beach. Although I hadn't seen him in a long while, the thought that I will never again run into him in one of the few remaining piano saloons on the East End diminishes my world.

Bobby had more than his share of bad breaks, and to read in the papers that he died in obscurity while driving a cab for a living was painful. He should have had a larger audience; he more than deserves to be remembered for his music. One of his concerts at Southampton College in particular is truly remarkable. If it is possible to get that recording you will see what I mean.

Bobby was a concert pianist stuck in the piano bar world. I was a rock star caught in the same predicament. We were both frustrated, but at least we could make our keep doing something we enjoyed. By the mid 90's we became dinosaurs, having outlived the era when playing the piano was considered cool. Very few restaurants have pianos anymore. Our world has changed. The collective has turned away from individuality and increasingly towards unified conformity. Pianists have been replaced with D.J.s, ipods and cell phones. It is almost impossible to make a decent living in live music anymore. I guess behind the wheel of a taxi Bobby could at least still be autonomous.

I hope that having his name above the door of so many saloons (no, he didn't own them, having lost the rights years ago) once in a while someone will ask: Who was Booby Van? And just maybe, someone there will know – really know. So now I say goodbye to a friend, teacher and fellow individualist who never even considered joining the pack. If there is a heaven I hope he gets to meet George Gershwin and play him a medley of his songs in the Bobby Van style.

NEW MOON:

The New Moon falls on Sunday December 9th at 12:40 P.M. EST at 17 degrees Sagittarius 16 minutes. This is the most optimistic and expansive of all the signs and, as we know, this is usually a month of exuberance and overdoing. Although Christmas falls in the sign of Capricorn, the time leading up to it is better suited to Sagittarius. Shopping, partying, overeating, drinking and reveling are right in step with this mutable fire sign's tendency towards self-indulgence and generosity. Of course, the credit card bills always arrive when the Sun is in reality-based Capricorn, so try not to overextend yourself financially or with your time. With the Full Moon falling in Cancer this year instead of Gemini, this lunar cycle will be more concerned with foundation and home. With the economy in its present precarious situation many may take a more frugal approach to the holidays. Cancer wants to remind us that it isn't all about money and presents, but rather the gifts life gives us, such as good health, friends and loved ones. The world is rather empty without love no matter how many toys you have.

MERCURY SQUARES URANUS:

On Monday December 10th at 7:24 P.M. EST these two related energies are in conflict. This can be a nervous day, especially if it sets off your chart. People will tend to be jittery and rather blunt in their speech, so try not to take offense. Hear the words behind the attitude, and then react accordingly. Mercury rules short journeys and various modes of transportation, including cars. Uranus relates to sudden unexpected events. Obviously the potential for accidents is strong. Pay extra attention when driving or walking. And if you are in a bad mood, tired or distracted, perhaps you should let someone else take the wheel.

JUPITER CONJUNCTS PLUTO:

On Tuesday December 11th at 2:26 P.M. EST this most important aspect completes. Although there may or may not be an event to herald this moment, the results of this coupling will be felt in our culture for several months. This represents an expansion of the Pluto energy,

which rules partnerships, money held in common (such as stocks and bonds), oil and plutonium. This conjunction happens in Jupiter ruled Sagittarius, where Pluto has been transiting for many years. It is the reason oil is nearly \$100 a barrel. We will see some interesting events in the oil markets once Pluto leaves this sign and enters Capricorn in January.

VENUS TRINES MARS:

Also on Tuesday December 11th at 6:16 P.M. EST the male and female planets are in harmony. This would be a good day to approach the opposite sex. Communication will be easy and you each will have a desire to reach an accord. Because Jupiter is conjunct Pluto (ruler of sex) today as well, desire is in the air. What you do about it is called free-will.

THE SUN SEXTILES NEPTUNE:

Also on Tuesday December 11th at 10:49 P.M. EST this positive but rather subtle energy occurs. This is the last of today's plethora of aspects, and it brings compassion and a deeper understanding to the table. Take a moment to evaluate your feelings and situation. You may find there is something missing from your attitude. Empathy will be strong, and anyplace you can show it will aid you as much as the recipient.

VENUS SEXTILES SATURN:

On Wednesday December 12th at 2:33 P.M. EST this sextile completes. We will all be a bit more realistic about romance and possessions. This is a good day for shopping, as your frugal side will be most prominent. This is also a good day for any important conversation with your mate or date. You can easily get to the bottom of things without any conflict or fears. This is not a good day for a party.

MERCURY SEXTILES NEPTUNE:

On Thursday December 13th at 10:03 P.M. EST this interesting aspect occurs. Use your intuition rather than your intellect today. Even though this is a positive aspect, confusion or misdirection is more than possible, as we are drawn towards the ethereal. The problem is we live in a material world, so pay some attention to reality. This is a good aspect for artists of all sorts.

THE SUN CONJUNCTS MERCURY:

On Monday December 17th at 10:27 A.M. EST this conjunction completes. You can expect a willful attitude from many people today. The strength of conviction and unbending approach will make it difficult to communicate with some. Try to avoid confrontation, but get your point across. Communication of all sorts is favored, if you can get past everyone's ego.

JUPITER ENTERS CAPRICORN:

On Tuesday December 18th at 3:12 P.M. EST the planet of expansion enters this most restrictive of signs. For the next year, contained growth is the way to go. With this planetary placement you must do things slowly and steadily. Success will come from patience. It will be difficult at times to expand things the way you wish they would grow, but that is exactly the lesson. If you do things properly, in the near future you will receive all the rewards you have earned. But if you strike out too quickly and too aggressively you will suffer many setbacks. There is a purpose to this transit. It is to teach us how important a strong foundation is for any type of growth or expansion. Anything attempted without the proper groundwork will probably not succeed. However, if you use the two energies together – build a foundation upon which Jupiter can then expand, this can be a period of steady and prosperous growth, both materialistically and emotionally.

SATURN RETROGRADES:

On Wednesday December 19th at 9:11 A.M. EST the planet of karma will begin moving backwards until the beginning of May. There will be delays in professional, financial and legal issues. Take time to secure a strong foundation and reinforce any areas that show weakness. This is an opportunity to examine things more carefully, which will help avoid more serious problems in the future. This is not the best time to begin a business. It would be better to wait until this goes forward in the spring. While this planet is in retrograde many of us will focus our attention on building a better structure for our lives. This energy will be internalized, and this is a chance to redirect your thoughts towards a more realistic attitude. We live in a material world, and that reality must at times be pointed out clearly. As such, this could be a rough period for our economy. Many of our worst recessions peaked while Saturn was retrograde.

MERCURY CONJUNCT PLUTO:

Also on Wednesday December 19th at 1:48 P.M. EST this intense aspect completes. Conversations will take a serious tone, and most of us will not be satisfied with superficial answers. Delve deeply into any subject and you may uncover some very important truths. Secrets are often revealed when these two get together. Since Mercury has much to do with the U.S. bonds and thus, the dollar index, there may be some news that affects those markets powerfully.

MERCURY ENTERS CAPRICORN:

On Thursday December 20th at 9:43 A.M. EST the planet of thought and speech enters this Saturn ruled sign. For the next few weeks people will be more reticent in their speech and other communications. Honesty and directness will be the rule for now. There is little room for frivolous thought, and most of us will be working very hard to satisfy this sign's desire for structure. This is a very active day with three aspects creating a powerful atmosphere. The Sun is about to enter Capricorn, and we are approaching a Full Moon in Cancer. Approach things from a conservative point of view (personally, not politically) and you will reap many rewards during the next month.

MERCURY CONJUNCTS JUPITER:

Also On Thursday December 20th at 4:54 P.M. EST this interesting aspect completes. Jupiter tends to blow things out of proportion, and when it conjuncts Mercury there is often a strong desire to exaggerate things. But this conjunct occurs in Capricorn, so there will be some restraint and a better focus than usual. This is a good day to communicate your ideas in person or writing. But remember that there still is also a strong desire to talk as well as to embellish things, so don't believe everything you hear today. The usual Jupiter optimism may also be somewhat curtailed, but it will certainly be present and you should make the most of it.

THE SUN CONJUNCTS PLUTO:

Also on Thursday December 20th at 7:14 P.M. EST this powerful force occurs. Often this is expressed internally, but because Mercury is conjunct Jupiter today as well people will be more likely to say what's on their mind. And you may get quite an earful. Pluto needs to uncover whatever is hidden. And you could be exposed to more truth than you bargained for. Whatever is said today should be taken seriously and thought through. This aspect often coincides with the breakdown of things, including relationships and mechanical devices. If it sets off your chart you could experience an event.

THE SUN ENTERS CAPRICORN:

On Saturday December 22nd at 1:08 A.M. EST and we officially begin winter. Capricorn is in

some ways the most reality oriented of the 12 signs. This is a month of hard work and concentration. Try to make the most of this period. I've often found it interesting that each of the four seasons begins exactly as the Sun enters each of the four cardinal signs. But of course as a modern society we don't really believe in astrology, nor can we prove any influence over mankind. Issues of security, both financial and emotional will be in the forefront for the next month. Any areas of your life that lack the necessary foundation could become problematic.

VENUS SQUARES PLUTO:

Also on Saturday December 22nd at 5:23 A.M. EST this bit of intensity completes. This aspect can create feelings of compulsiveness and obsession, especially in romantic relationships. If you are involved with someone, this could be a very passionate or argumentative day, depending on the state of your relationship. If you are single you could become infatuated with someone. But give it a few days before you commit to anything permanent. The obsessive side of this aspect could make you fall for someone totally inappropriate.

MERCURY OPPOSES MARS:

Also on Saturday December 22nd at 1:29 P.M. EST another rather compulsive aspect completes. Arguments and disagreements of all sorts are common when these two are in opposition. You should choose your battles carefully and not waste time on frivolous discussions. There will be more than enough offered to you, and if you are in a combative mood you will certainly have people around with whom to work it out. Try not to let your ego get in the way of your judgment. This can be an accident prone aspect, especially while traveling, so use extra care.

THE SUN CONJUNCTS JUPITER:

On Sunday December 23rd at 12:56 A.M. EST this enthusiastic and optimistic aspect occurs. There is a tendency to overdo things when Jupiter is activated, and as this precedes the Full Moon, perhaps we should all use some restraint. Be careful not to make promises you can't keep. But otherwise, you should enjoy this day and get out into the world. Expand your consciousness anyway you can. This is a good day to begin a trip.

FULL MOON:

This month's lunar peak occurs on Sunday December 23rd at 8:16 P.M. EST at 1 degree Cancer 50 minutes. Family and friends will be prominent in our thoughts, as they usual are this time of year. But with the Full Moon falling on the same day as the Sun Jupiter conjunction everything will be blown out of proportion. This could be an exceptionally emotional Christmas week for many of us. The Cancer energy brings up the past and stimulates our feelings. You can expect to hear from more than the usual number of old friends and lost loves. Keep a box of tissues near the phone.

THE SUN OPPOSES MARS:

On Monday December 24th at 2:47 P.M. EST Mars enters the fray. This week contains a series of Sun – Mars – Jupiter aspects that will be stimulating, aggressive and optimistic. As long as you are able to put things in some perspective you can make use of this energy and get a great deal accomplished. Just don't take on more than you can handle. Today you should be cautious of exuding too much ego force. Everyone will be feeling this a bit, and you could easily fall into a dispute or argument that really isn't much more than unbridled will and ego. Keep yourself busy and you will dilute this force successfully. Any physical activity, such as sports, hard work or... you know, will help in this.

MERCURY TRINES SATURN:

On Tuesday December 25th at 6:10 P.M. EST this constructive and useful aspect will bring a certain amount of restraint to all the Jupiter energy in the air. This aspect will help us all concentrate on details and it should make this a successful Christmas. Conversation will tend to be more realistic and constrained, and the past will play an important role. But there will be plenty of energy around, with Mars about to oppose Jupiter, so a little structure and self-control is probably a good thing.

MARS OPPOSES JUPITER:

On Wednesday December 26th at 2:53 P.M. EST this extremely forceful aspect completes. We have been feeling its pull for several days, since the 22nd when Mercury opposed Mars. This is a great aspect for many things. The optimism and exuberance it projects will give many of us an extra jolt of energy we need to complete this holiday week. But be careful of pushing your ego out too much in conversation or physically. You will run into others trying to do the same. Jupiter expands everything it comes in contact with, and Mars loves conflict.

THE SUN TRINES SATURN:

On Sunday December 30th at 8:23 A.M. EST this bit of common sense comes along. This is a good day for taking care of business, paying attention to detail and cleaning up your desk, closet or relationships. There is a serious attitude in the air, but not a stogy or oppressive feeling. Rather, many of us will have a strong desire to take care of things. Anything left unfinished will tug at your thoughts until you complete it.

VENUS ENTERS SAGITTARIUS:

Also on Sunday December 30th at 1:02 P.M. EST the planet of love and possessions enters this more expansive and frivolous of signs. Needless to say, it would be nice if we could all show some restraint and not overdo things. But we won't. For the next month or so, love will be more carefree and people will tend to be more flirtatious. But often this signs promises more than it can deliver. I would give any new relationship time to prove its stability before committing too much of yourself. Pay attention to your pocketbook. In financial matters there will also be a tendency towards exaggeration and frivolity. With Sagittarius it is often easy come, easy go.

MARS ENTERS GEMINI:

On Monday December 31st at 11:01 A.M. EST Mars retrogrades back into the sign of thoughts and communications. People may be more argumentative in general for the next few months, and it would be wise to keep this in mind. Avoid any confrontations that are not necessary, and don't let the little things upset you too much. The most combative moments will be the next few days as this planet approaches the opposition to Pluto.

MARS OPPOSES PLUTO:

On Wednesday January 2nd at 4:23 P.M. EST this powerful and potentially dangerous aspect completes. We all would be wise to avoid dangerous situations or neighborhoods for a day or so leading up to this. Also try to sidestep disagreements in your life. Most of them aren't worth the aggravation and with Mars being activated it will mostly be about ego anyway.

VENUS SQUARES SATURN:

On Sunday January 6th at 8:39 A.M. EST this sobering aspect arrives. The holiday bills should be waiting in the mailbox and reality comes home to roost. Most of us will be all played out by now and could use a moment of restrictions. Any relationship begun now may not be terribly exciting, but it might have staying power.

MERCURY ENTERS AQUARIUS:

On Monday January 7th at 11:46 P.M. EST Mercury enters this erratic sign. As with all aspects there are potentially positive and negative sides. People will be a bit jittery during the next few months, and arguments are certainly possible. But this placement makes it easier to see outside the box, and if you can take advantage of its quirky point of view you could see a side of life many of us never pay attention to. It will retrograde in late January and remain in Aquarius until March 15th, so get used to it. Inspirational ideas may come your way, but if you are too concerned with keeping the status quo you may not recognize genius when you see it.

DARK OF THE MOON:

The next New Moon falls on Tuesday January 8th at 6:37 A.M. EST. The day or two leading up to it will be a particularly low energy period. If you tend to be emotional this may be a very trying time each month. I have found that people with prominent moons or a Cancer Sun, Moon or ascendant respond to the cycles of the moon more intensely than others. Spend this time finishing up anything that is incomplete, don't try to initiate new projects on a waning moon, it just won't work out. Once the New Moon hits you begin new projects or attempt a new approach to an existing problem. If you have been living in a situation or involved in a relationship that is intolerable or has outlived its usefulness this would be the proper time to move on with your life. If you have been working on a project that is almost complete but you seem to lack the energy for the finality, you must push during these low energy days to end the matter once and for all. If you don't, when the New Moon arrives it will bring this "dead" energy along with it and conflict with the newer force being presented. Each month we are offered a chance to clean house, so to speak.

Note: All aspects are most powerful and effective as they apply. Once the transit has completed, its force is lessened. The further it separates the weaker it becomes.

Below is a list of times this month when the Moon is Void of Course and neither important decisions nor purchases should be made during these periods. The Void of Course Moon is a time when we should try to center ourselves and deal with spiritual matters not materialistic ones. Any decisions made on the VC Moon will not turn out the way we had expected.

The Moon is Void of Course from the time it makes its last major aspect in a sign until it enters the next sign. For example, if the Moon squares Mars at 27 degrees Aries and then has no more aspects until it enters Taurus it will be Void of Course for three degrees or about 6 hours. The aspects used are the conjunction, sextile, square, trine, and opposition.

All times are Eastern Daylight:

December 10th 10:36 A.M. – 1:51 P.M.

December 11th 6:57 P.M. – December 13th 12:01 A.M. *** Moon is void all day

December 15th 6:51 A.M. – 8:15 A.M.

December 17th 1:27 P.M. – 1:52 P.M.

December 19th 2:33 P.M. – 4:38 P.M.

December 21st 1:07 A.M. – 5:14 P.M.

December 23rd 3:25 P.M. – 5:18 P.M.

December 25th 8:17 A.M. – 6:52 P.M.

December 27th 9:54 P.M. – 11:44 P.M.

December 30th 8:08 A.M. – 8:37 A.M.

January 1st 7:33 P.M. – 8:32 P.M.

January 3rd 4:30 P.M. – January 4th 9:13 A.M.

January 6th 7:27 P.M. – 8:43 P.M.

Mitchell Scott Lewis

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New York City

(212) 726-3814

<http://www.mitchastro.com>

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